

September 27, 2023

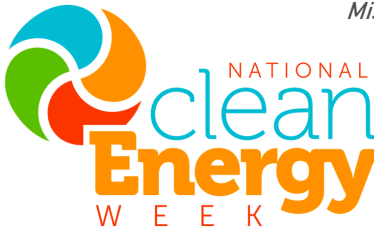


## FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



*The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues and the continuous work we are doing for the citizens in the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.*

*Brent Bailey*



**N**ational Clean Energy Week (NCEW) is an annual awareness event to recognize the value of clean energy, including abundant job opportunities, economic growth, energy independence, consumer choice, lower energy prices, and a cleaner environment. Now in its 7th year, NCEW helps to focus attention on the policies, industries, and innovations that power our daily lives while producing no or little greenhouse gas emissions.

**NUCLEAR ENERGY**  
ENERGY'S GRAND OLD NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION IS THE FIRST AND ONLY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO PRODUCE ELECTRICITY IN MISSISSIPPI AND IS THE LARGEST SINGLE-UNIT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN THE COUNTRY (NEARLY 1,500 MW) AND FIFTH LARGEST IN THE WORLD.

**SOLAR ENERGY**  
SINCE 2015, THE MPSC HAS APPROVED 38 CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR OVER 3,075.425 MW/DC OF SOLAR PROJECTS. ALL PROJECTS COMBINED REPRESENT A POTENTIAL TOTAL INVESTMENT OF \$3.73B IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

**NATURAL GAS**  
NATURAL GAS IS THE PRIMARY FUEL USED AT 9 OF THE STATES' 10 LARGEST POWER PLANTS. MISSISSIPPI IS ONE OF THE FEW STATES WITH LARGE UNDERGROUND SALT CAVERNS CAPABLE OF STORING NATURAL GAS. ABOUT 3 IN 10 HOUSEHOLDS IN MISSISSIPPI RELY ON NATURAL GAS FOR HOME HEATING.

**ENERGY STORAGE**  
THE MPSC HAS APPROVED 355.14 MW OF BATTERY/ENERGY STORAGE.

**WIND ENERGY**  
THE MPSC APPROVED THE STATE'S FIRST WIND TURBINE ELECTRICITY GENERATION FACILITY IN 2021 WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING BUILT ON 13,000 ACRES IN TUNICA COUNTY AND WILL CONSIST OF UP TO 80 TURBINES. THE FACILITY WILL GENERATE ENOUGH POWER TO PROVIDE ENERGY TO APPROXIMATELY 70,000 HOMES.

**BIOGAS & BIOMASS**  
THE SANDERSON FARMS POULTRY PROCESSING PLANT IN COLLINS CAPTURES BIOGAS TO SUPPLEMENT NATURAL GAS FOR HOT WATER BOILERS. THE REDWOOD INTERNATIONAL PAPER FACILITY NEAR VICKSBURG CAN GENERATE UP TO 50.5 MW USING BIOMASS CHIP.

**HYDROPOWER**  
AS AMERICA'S LARGEST SOURCE OF RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY, HYDROPOWER ACCOUNTS FOR 52% OF ALL RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION IN THE U.S. MISSISSIPPI HAS NOT FACILITATED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE TYPES OF PROJECTS, HOWEVER, THAT COULD BE CHANGING VERY SOON AS DEVELOPERS ARE TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT THE POTENTIAL HYDROPOWER PROJECTS HAVE IN OUR STATE.

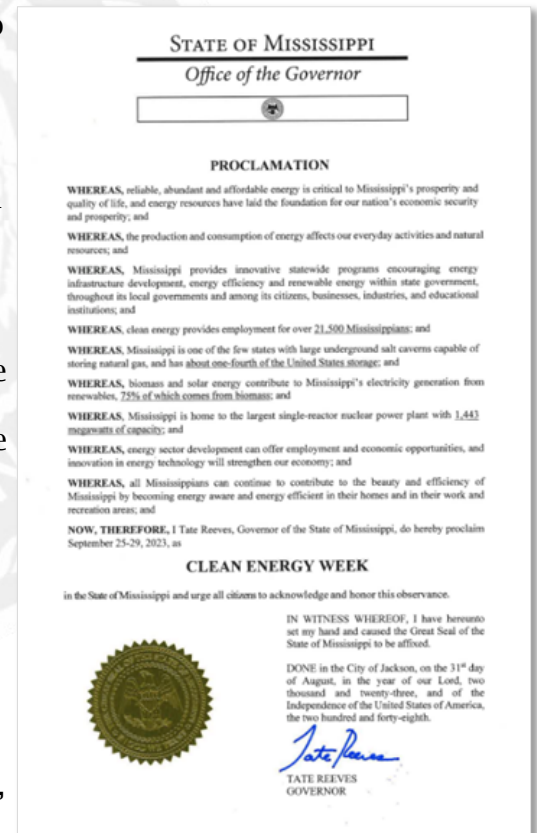
**GEOTHERMAL**  
COOPERATIVE ENERGY HAS TWO FACILITIES IN HATTIESBURG THAT ARE SERVED BY GEOTHERMAL SYSTEMS. 55 GEOTHERMAL WELLS INSTALLED AT THE 38,000 SQ. FT. FIELD OPERATION CENTER ON HIGHWAY 42, 172 GEOTHERMAL WELLS INSTALLED AT THE 62,000 SQ. FT. HEADQUARTERS FACILITY ON HIGHWAY 49.

**COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY  
CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**#NCEW2023**

The week of September 25-29, 2023, brings together corporate leaders, advocates, policymakers, and trade associations who are dedicated to reducing emissions while growing the economy through smart policy and technological innovation. NCEW encompasses broad and diverse energy sources, including solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, nuclear, natural gas, biomass, carbon capture, and waste-to-energy. NCEW also recognizes rapidly accelerating innovation within energy efficiency and energy storage.

Despite the very real technological and political challenges, clean energy will be a part of our future, and Mississippi is ready to lead the way. In fact, Governor Tate Reeves recognized the growing importance of clean energy by signing a [Proclamation](#) recognizing Clean Energy Week in the state of Mississippi. In the Proclamation, Governor Reeves states, "Mississippi provides innovative statewide programs encouraging energy infrastructure development, energy efficiency, and renewable energy within state government, throughout its local governments, and among its citizens, businesses, industries, and educational institutions." I appreciate Governor Reeves for public acknowledging Clean Energy Week and the role of diverse energy resources in economic development, natural resource conservation and strong, prosperous communities.



[Click infographic to enlarge](#)





## Greenville Community Forum

On September 26, the MPSC Central District held its third Community Forum in Greenville, MS at the Buster Brown Community Center. Partnering with Greenville Mayor Errick Simmons, we dove directly into several matters of interest, including an overview of the jurisdictional reach of the MPSC as it relates to municipal utility services. These forums are important in several ways: Most importantly, the forums provide an opportunity for customers and me to have face-to-face engagement on issues. The forums are excellent platforms to help customers understand the role, functions and responsibilities of the MPSC. The forums also provide an opportunity for customers to interact with utilities directly and get answers to critical questions.



At the forums, I share information on the work of the Commission and the Central District over the past few years. This work includes implementation of energy efficiency programs, review of utility infrastructure, efforts to protect utility infrastructure, celebrating utility workers, support economic growth, increase utility service reliability and resilience, and expand engagement with constituents. Forum attendees

had questions about the status of deployment of broadband service, expansion of natural gas service, student education on utility safety, vegetation management protocols and other matters. We were asked to return to Washington County and Greenville to share this information with additional audiences. We look forward to the opportunity.



*Pictured with Greenville Mayor Errick Simmons*



*Pictured with Greenville resident Gloria Leasy and Atmos Energy's Wendy Collins*



*We were joined by state Representative Otis L. Anthony (House District 31).*



*Pictured with Greg Hayman, President of TecInfo Communications LLC*



*Pictured with Lee Cohen, Manager of Black Bayou Water Association*



*Pictured with Derrick Young, Operations Coordinator for Entergy Mississippi*



*Pictured with Kyla Rice, Executive Assistant to the Mayor/PR Director*





## Tour of Plant Vogtle Units 3 & 4

On September 21-22, members of the Southeast Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC) met in Augusta, GA for in-depth, comprehensive discussions to examine the interests in and recent developments of new nuclear generation in the U.S. and abroad. We also reviewed advanced reactor technologies, challenges facing new reactor deployment, and issues that could come before state commissions related to advanced nuclear. Experts from the Nuclear Energy Institute, Idaho National Laboratory, and U.S. Department of Energy engaged with state Commissioners on legislative, regulatory and technological matters as it relates to the role of nuclear in a cleaner energy future.

On the second day of the SEARUC meeting, Commissioners and associates toured Georgia Power's Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4 in Waynesboro, GA. These are the first newly constructed nuclear units in the U.S. in over 30 years and together can power 1,000,000 homes and businesses. Once all four nuclear units at Plant Vogtle are online, the Plant Vogtle site will be the largest generator of clean energy in the nation and support continued growth in Georgia as more industries, businesses and families come to the state.

Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4 are new [Advanced Passive 1000 \(AP1000\) Generation III+](#) nuclear two-loop pressurized water reactors (PWR) originally designed by Westinghouse Electric Company. Vogtle Units 3 & 4 are the first AP 1000 Generation III+ units built in the U.S. (Four AP1000 units have been built in China) and are designed and licensed to operate for 60 years. These units utilize advanced, passive safety systems, have a smaller footprint and simpler design, and uses less piping, valves and pumps than older designs. Each unit has a generation capacity of 1,102 MW. At the peak of construction, over 9,000 workers were onsite. Approximately 800 workers will be employed at Units 3 & 4 when both units are in commercial operation.



*Pictured with Mary Korsnick, CEO,  
and Marcus Nichol, Executive  
Director of New Nuclear, Nuclear  
Energy Institute*



*Pictured with Kristy Hartman,  
NEI and Michael Caron, NARUC  
President and Connecticut PSC*

**N**uclear fuel pellets are made from uranium-235. In the reactor, the uranium pellets are bombarded by neutrons and fission occurs when a uranium atom absorbs a neutron and the atom splits. The atom produces additional neutrons which go on to split more U-235 atoms resulting in a chain reaction and producing tremendous amounts of heat energy. Fuel pellets are stacked in fuel rods and then 264 fuel rods are bundled together to make one fuel assembly. Plant Vogtle Units 3 & 4 each use 157 fuel assemblies. Fuel assemblies are approximately 15 feet tall.

Vogtle Unit 3 entered commercial operation on July 31, 2023. Unit 4 will go online first quarter of 2024. However, getting to this point was not an easy journey. Past events, such as the Fukushima disaster, caused certain design changes. Lots of new workers had to be trained since a new nuclear facility had not been built from the ground up in 30 years. A new supply chain had to be established. The prime contractor, Westinghouse Corp., filed bankruptcy and a new contractor had to be acquired. The COVID-19 pandemic caused disruptions across all aspects of the project. These challenges and other issues caused the project to miss its construction deadline by six years and its expected total cost more than doubled from \$17 billion to approximately \$35 billion.

Nuclear energy is the largest clean energy source in the U.S., producing more carbon-free electricity than all other sources combined. Plant Vogtle will prevent up to 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, equivalent to removing one million cars from the road each year. The energy created from one uranium fuel pellet, which is about the size of a fingertip, is comparable to one ton of coal or 17,000 cubic feet of natural gas. Learn more about uranium fuel in the sidebar.



*More photos from tour of  
Plant Vogtle Units 3 & 4*



*The Vogtle Unit 3 Cooling Tower stands 60 stories high and contains five times more concrete than the Statue of Liberty.*



*Vogtle Units 1 & 2 began commercial operation in 1987 and 1989 and are part of the Vogtle Electric Generation Complex*



*Vogtle Units 3 & 4 and the Unit 3 cooling tower.*



*The AP1000 design incorporates a passive safety design system that includes a high capacity in-containment refueling water storage tank that can operate without human intervention for up to 72 hours.*



*Pictured with Arkansas Commissioner Katie Anderson*

## Cooperative Energy Unveils SiteInvest Program

This week, Cooperative Energy, with its 11 Member electric distribution cooperatives, unveiled the SiteInvest program at the inaugural Cooperative Energy Economic Development Summit. SiteInvest is designed to help improve readiness and enhance the development of industrial properties in Cooperative Energy's Members' territories. Both currently marketed industrial properties and newly identified industrial properties are invited to participate in the program.



Cooperative Energy's electric distribution cooperative Members stretch from the Gulf Coast through the Mississippi Delta and collectively serve 445,000 customers. The SiteInvest program is another economic development tool that can be effectively leveraged with state and local resources to advance development and readiness and increase the attractiveness of industrial properties. Learn more about this program and other economic development efforts at [www.cooperativeenergy.com/economic-development](http://www.cooperativeenergy.com/economic-development).

## Last Week at the MPSC

- ☞ **The Public Utilities Staff** prepared and filed the Monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment Audit Reports for the following entities for the period of May 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023: [Atmos Energy](#); [CenterPoint Energy](#); [Spire Mississippi Inc.](#)
- ☞ **AmeriMex Communications Corp.** d/b/a **SafetyNet Wireless** filed its [Application](#) to the **Commission** for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") in the State.



FROM THE DESK OF  
**COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY**  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



*Continued...*

- ✎ **The Mississippi Public Utilities Staff and CenterPoint Energy** filed their [Joint Stipulation](#) in regard to **Centerpoint Energy's** Filing of Routine Changes in Its Rate Regulation Adjustment Rider and of the Initial Filing of Its Weather Normalization Adjustment Rider WNA. If approved by the **Commission**, this will result in the following increase to rates of the average monthly bills for customers effective January 1, 2024: \$1.97 for Residential; \$5.90 for Small Commercial; and \$23.70 for Large Volume.
- ✎ **South Central Water Association** filed their [Answer](#) to Formal Complaint in regards to the Formal Complaint Against **South Central Water Association** for Failure to Provide Reasonably Adequate Water Service on Holliday Road in **Hinds County**.
- ✎ **Boldyn Networks US LLC**, formally **Mobilitie, LLC**, filed its [Notice](#) of Name Change and [Replacement Tariff](#) requesting that the **Commission** issue an updated certificate, if applicable, to reflect the Company's name as "**Boldyn Networks US LLC**" and update the Company's name in all **Commission** records.
- ✎ The City of Madison filed their [Motion to Intervene](#) in regards to the Notice of **Canton Municipal Utilities** to Increase Rates for Water Service, as well as, a [Motion to Intervene](#) in regard to the Notice of **Canton Municipal Utilities** to Increase Rates for Sewer Service.

*Mark your calendars  
Central District!*

*These forums will give you the opportunity to learn more about the Commission and its responsibilities. We look forward to discussing ideas and receiving feedback from those who can attend. We hope to see you there!*



Click flyers to enlarge



*Upcoming Locations:*

<b>Jackson</b>	<b>Meridian</b>	<b>Port Gibson</b>
<b>Oct. 3</b>	<b>Oct. 10</b>	<b>Oct. 17</b>



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **27** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	20
Telecommunications	4
Natural Gas	2
Water/Sewer	1

*Save the Date*



**OCTOBER DOCKET MEETING**  
Tuesday, October 3 at 10 am in the  
MPSC Hearing Room